

## **Student Advisory Committee Recommendations to the Affordability Subcommittee**

The Student Advisory Committee by general consensus supports the following recommendations for consideration by the Affordability Subcommittee:

**Explore strategies to strengthen the market for used textbooks, which comprise only 25-30 percent of the textbook market, but are typically 25 percent less expensive.**

- Increase communication between campus bookstores and faculty regarding text selection options and ordering procedures.
- Make faculty aware of the monetary effects of switching editions, using different textbooks, and ordering bundled materials.
- Determine the feasibility of guaranteed buy-back programs, which identify for students at the time of purchase which texts the campus bookstore will accept for buy-back.
- Encourage students and institutions to develop online book swaps, which connect student buyers and sellers directly.

**Establish guidelines or principles for textbook selection that can minimize price increases.**

- Retain textbooks for a longer period of time and archive older editions for student use.
- Be aware of price when making textbook selections.
- Consider less expensive alternatives that take advantage of 21st century technology (e.g., electronic textbooks, open education resources, print on demand, electronic readers, online collections of educational content, and other “no frills” options and formats).
- Use the same textbook for multiple courses when possible.

**Provide information on textbook costs to students and parents earlier in the process.**

- Send price information on textbooks before the term starts.
- Following the lead of Nevada State College, Portland State University, and Georgia Institute of Technology, post all syllabi, textbook lists, and ISBNs online when students are registering for classes (this can also help reduce inefficient “course shopping” by students).
- When possible, make textbook lists available to local off-campus bookstores, fostering increased competition between bookstores and helping students get the best price.

**Increase the availability of free library resources or textbook rental programs.**

- Create textbook reserve programs and lending libraries, which allow students to borrow course materials for free.
- Increase faculty use of E-reserves and other low-cost alternatives.
- Increase donations of textbooks to libraries.

**As part of a comprehensive study of state financial aid programs, explore the feasibility of offering financial assistance for textbooks, which could be in the form of a sales tax reduction, state tax credits, or emergency vouchers.**